



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Request for Proposals

Institutional Grants for continuation and implementation of College Readiness Initiatives

I. Background

As part of Senate Bill 1 (2009) (SB1) implementation, the Council on Postsecondary Education (the Council) received a state appropriation to develop and implement activities to improve postsecondary readiness, placement, and student success at the P-12, adult education, and postsecondary levels. The goal is to continue the development and implementation of promising student success initiatives/interventions.

II. Focus of Grant

Kentucky's public universities, community colleges, and independent institutions received professional development funds to support the implementation of SB1 with university faculty and staff and funds to enhance assessment practices for college readiness and course placement. The Council seeks to incent Kentucky institutions of higher education to extend and enhance current SB1 initiatives or related new projects identified from those initiatives that address the implementation of SB1. The projects proposed should focus on a regional college readiness issue that bridges the student success gap between adult education, secondary and postsecondary arenas or provides support for student success. Proposals should address one (1) of the four (4) Unified Strategies identified in the College and Career Readiness Unified Strategic Plan. These strategies are:

- Increase accelerated learning opportunities for all Kentucky Students;
- Provide targeted interventions for all students who are not college and career ready;
- Increase access to and quality of college and career readiness advising;
- Increase the college completion rates of students entering with one or more developmental or supplemental course needs.

Funded projects will implement activities that address identified regional needs (e.g., assessment for learning, analyzing data, informational and professional development opportunities, assessment academies, dual credit, transition courses, advising, Common Core standards). Bonus points will be given for significant collaborations between institutions/school districts.

Multiple grants will be distributed to collaborative partnerships through this competitive RFP process with a grant award range of \$25,000 to \$50,000. Project timelines will be January 1, 2012 – December 30, 2012.

Proposals should include evidence of how the regional issue was selected and the proposed initiative/intervention to address the identified need, its projected costs, projected outcomes, and timeline. In addition, there should be a continuous assessment and improvement model that builds sustainability into the initiative/intervention.

III. Proposal Guidelines and Format

- A. Each of Kentucky's eight public universities and members of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are invited and encouraged to apply. Licensed, in-state, regionally accredited, non-profit, independent institutions are also invited and encouraged to apply.
- B. The proposal should follow conventional standards for English usage, proofreading, and citations crediting the ideas and words of others. The narrative should be no more than ten (10) pages. Supporting documentation may be included in an appendix.
- C. The proposal must include and will be evaluated according to the following criteria (100 points):
 - 1. **Objectives and Activities (40 points):** The proposal must include a detailed description of the regional issue, proposed activities and how they relate to the objectives. Proposal must be well-written, easily understood, concise, and well-conceived. Proposal must meet all requirements of the RFP and be focused on the implementation of SB1 that addresses a regional issue to improve student readiness and success.
 - 2. **Collaboration (30 points):** The proposal must include evidence of both internal and external collaboration to successfully address the objectives.
 - 3. **Resources and Capacity (15 points):** The proposal must include evidence of institutional commitment and collaboration and demonstrate an approach grounded in the best available research. The grant must have strong infrastructure support from the applying institution and evidence of collaboration within the applying institution and among its collaborators on the grant activities.
 - 4. **Budget (10 point):** The proposed budget must be clear, concise, cost-effective, and clearly justified in the narrative. A detailed budget needs to be provided with the following items (where applicable):
 - 1. Personal expenses, including salaries and release time.
 - 2. Fringe benefits.
 - 3. Contractual expenses.
 - 4. Expenses for diagnostic testing programs and related services.
 - 5. Travel expenses.
 - 6. Stipends.
 - 7. Equipment procurement, repair, and maintenance expenses.

8. In-kind contributions.
5. **Timeline (5 points):** Proposal must include a timeline that is appropriate and reasonable for implementation.

IV. Submission and Deadlines

- A. A technical assistance workshop conference call will be held for all interested parties on August 22, 2011 at 10:00am EST. Conference call numbers:
US Dial-in Number: +1 (877) 746-4263
Participant Code: 0237308#
- B. Applicants must submit an electronic version of the proposal.
- C. Proposals must be received by 4 p.m., EST, on October 1, 2011.
- D. Submit proposals to:

John DeAtley, Senior Associate
Academic Affairs
Council on Postsecondary Education
1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 320
Frankfort, KY 40601
John.DeAtley@ky.gov

V. Funding

CPE plans to award multiple grants with a minimum grant award amount of \$25,000.00 up to \$50,000.00. Total grant funding available is up to \$400,000.00.

Funding will be available on January 1, 2012.

The Kentucky Collaboration Initiative for College Readiness and Student Success housed at Morehead State University, Morehead, KY will be the contracting entity and operate as the fiscal agent for the grants.

VI. Award Notification

The Council will award the grants by November 1, 2011. All institutions submitting proposals will be notified in writing regarding funding decisions shortly thereafter.

The Council reserves the right to accept any and all proposals in part, or in their entirety, if such decision is in the interests of the Council and the Commonwealth.

VII. General Provisions

- All proposals submitted shall include a signed copy of the attached *Campaign Finance Law Compliance* form.
- Any contract resulting from this RFP shall be governed by all provisions of KRS Chapter 45A.
- The Council reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and bears no responsibility for any costs of preparing any proposal.
- The RFP may be viewed at www.cpe.ky.gov.